

clared a regular quarterly dividend of 15 cents per common share. The dividend is payable Dec. 15 to stockholders whose names are on the Salt Lake City-based company's shareholder list on Nov. 15.

SkyWest Inc. in St. George, which provides regional air service and freight transport services through its SkyWest Airlines Inc. operations, reported it earned \$4.1 million, or 40 cents per share, in the second quarter that ended Sept. 30. A year ago, the company earned \$6.8 million, or 60 cents per share, during the same three months.

Infobases Inc., a Provo-based company that publishes and distributes computer programs directed toward members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has struck a deal to become the exclusive LDS distributor of Ancestral Quest, a Windows genealogy software program.

Thomasville Home Furnishings and **Scopes-Garcia-Carlisle Advertising and Public Relations** in Salt Lake City have taken top honors in the Thomasville Manufacturing Group's 1995 national advertising award competition. The awards program evaluates the print and television advertising from 650 Thomasville retailers nationwide.

PST Vans Inc., a medium to long-haul truckload carrier based in Salt Lake City, reported net income of \$203,644, or 5 cents per share, for its third quarter ended Sept. 30. Revenues for the period were \$43.8 million, compared with \$35.5 million the same period a year ago.

Card companies tried to keep up with the growing demand by increasing supply and prices eventually fell.

"People used to come in and pay \$30 to \$50 for a boxed set of cards," Storrs says. "Now they're coming back in here looking to get maybe \$10 for those same boxes. They are trying to cut their losses."

Industry analysts say retail sales of baseball, basketball and other cards have dropped to about \$1 billion from a peak of \$3 billion in 1991.

Developments such as last year's baseball strike and the ensuing hockey lock-out have had a dampening effect on demand, not only for cards but the sports memorabilia collecting market, says David

cards as he approached his record for consecutive baseball games played.

Debbie Johnson, who owns the Kearns Sport-N-Print Baseball Card Shop with her husband Dean, says the sports-card market is a lot healthier without all the speculation.

"We still have the true collectors around who can be counted on because they love the hobby," Johnson says. "They were the ones who were never really in it for the money."

Johnson says the Salt Lake-area market is unique. "Since we do not have a major league baseball team, we are much more of a basketball town," she says.

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Firm Proposes Open-Pit Copper Mines in Southeastern Utah

By Jim Woolf
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

A cluster of open-pit copper mines has been proposed in San Juan County's Lisbon Valley near the Utah-Colorado border.

Summo USA Corp. wants to dig four pits on public land, the largest of which would be about a half-mile long, a quarter-mile wide and 350 feet deep. The remaining three would be considerably smaller, said Robert A. Prescott, Summo's vice president for operations.

Copper would be extracted from the low-grade ore through a "heap leach" process in which a dilute solution of sulfuric acid is sprinkled over the crushed rock to extract the metal. The liquid then is processed to recover the copper.

The mine would produce 34 million pounds of copper a year for the next 10 years, said Prescott. As many as 105 people would work at the mine, most driving about 45 miles to the site from either Moab or Monticello.

"The San Juan County commissioners are very excited about this project," said Lynn Jackson, a land and mineral specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Moab. "A lot of people looking

forward to a little more diversification of the economy."

Jackson said the BLM will prepare an environmental-impact statement (EIS) on the mine proposal. The EIS is expected to be completed by September 1996. If no serious problems are identified, Prescott hopes to begin work on the \$48 million project early in 1997 and begin producing copper later that year.

Jackson said the area proposed for mining already contains several small pits left from copper mining in the 1940s and 1950s, projects that removed most of the high-grade ore. Summo believes it can profitably tap the remaining lower-grade ore using large-scale mining techniques and the relatively inexpensive heap-leach method.

This approach has been used to open gold mines throughout the West during the past decade. The only difference with this mine is that sulfuric acid would be used to extract the copper, while cyanide is used to extract gold.

"Sulfuric acid isn't great, but it's a damn sight better than cyanide," said Jackson.

Prescott acknowledged that some residents of southeastern Utah will be worried about the

prospect of heap-leach mining, but he believes most of their concerns can be addressed in the environmental study.

Current standards for this type of mine require the ore to be placed on plastic liners before being sprinkled with sulfuric acid to prevent contamination of the soil and groundwater.

Prescott claims the smell and fumes from the acidic water are strong enough to discourage waterfowl from landing on storage ponds and prevent deer and other animals from trying to drink it. Damage to wildlife has been a problem at some of the gold mines using cyanide, a powerful poison.

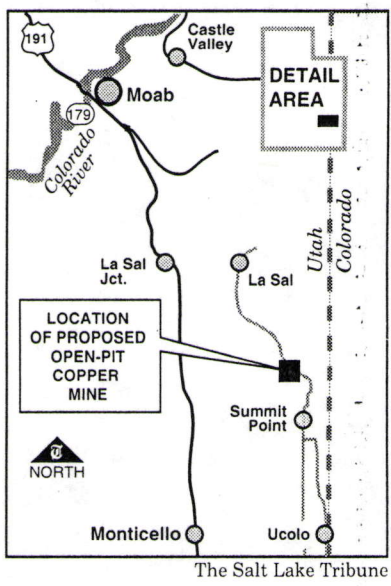
Summo is proposing to leave the pits open when mining is complete rather than attempting to backfill them with soil. Although controversial, this is standard industry practice. "We'll have to take measures to protect the public from falling in the pit," said Prescott.

He offered two justifications for leaving the pits. First is the added expense, which almost surely would make the mine unprofitable. Second is that low-grade ore will remain in the bottom of the pit when this phase of mining is complete. Leaving the

area for providing quality skiing opportunities."

Dixie National Forest spokesman Mark Van Every could not place a dollar value on the volume of lumber cut this fall. Revenue exceeding costs will be used to spray, plant new trees and clean up "slash" — branches and other debris left behind after the main logging operation.

"Logging debris adjacent to biking and hiking trails between the ski runs will be cleaned up next spring, following snowmelt," said Wilson.



hole open would assure easy access to this resource for future miners.

The question of refilling the pits will be addressed in BLM's environmental study, said Jackson.

Although heap-leach mining with sulfuric acid is fairly new to Utah, the process has been used at many mines around the West, said Wayne Hedberg, permit supervisor for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.